

V. I. A. ANNUAL

DEVOTED TO VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT AND TOWN BETTERMENT

VOL. XXXXII

TYNGSBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

FEBRUARY, 1937



THE TIMOTHY BANCROFT HOMESTEAD

Previous to the coming of the white man this land bordering the Merrimack river on the west, and lying on the New Hampshire-Massachusetts state boundary, was evidently a camping ground of the Indians. Traces of their occupancy have been found at different times. Within the last generation a large hearthstone, blackened by fire, was ploughed up, smaller blackened stones unearthed, and even as late as the early 1930's, in digging a pit, an inch layer of ashes was cut through two feet below the surface, while ever and anon arrowheads appear. These stones and ashes, proofs of camp sites, have been on the flats near the river. The tribe of Indians who here planted their corn and had their campfires, was, most probably, the Boganegan, for this name has been preserved in "Boganegan Point," a ledge extending into the river at this place and from which the soil has been washed in recent years leaving the point, at low water, just below the surface.

In notes of J. Frank Bancroft, he says: "This tract seems to have been occupied by one John Cromwell some time previous to the laying out of the Johnson grant." From the account given by Stearns it could not have been more than two or three years. Hazen's "History of Billerica," p. 45, says: "John Cromwell purchased 300 acres of land in Tyngsborough about 1658 or 9, that had been granted to Edward Johnson of Woburn in 1658, situated just north of Naacook Brook." Mr. Bancroft continues: "John Cromwell was an Indian trader and had several 'tenking' or trading houses on the Merrimack river, but his dwelling house stood on the site of my house, and here he died in 1661. Nothing is known of his early life or where he came from otherwise than that he was an Englishman. Some have asserted he was a relative of Oliver Cromwell, but there is no proof of the assertion." Stearns in his "Early generations of the founders of Old Dunstable," says he came from Charlestown where he had lived several years. "He married Seaborne Batcheller, or Batcheller, daughter of William Batcheller of Charlestown, and had at least two sons, John and Benjamin and a daughter, Rebecca, who were living in 1702. We find occa-

sional notices in the records of the General Court of his being fined for selling too much strong water and firearms to the Indians." (J. F. B.)

There are several versions of the Cromwell story and conflicting statements and dates. Fox's "History of the old township of Dunstable," Nason's "History of the town of Dunstable," Hill's "Reminiscences of old Dunstable" and Stearns' "Early generations of the founders of old Dunstable: thirty families," all tell his story. Hill and Stearns do not altogether agree with Fox, and Nason follows Fox as to dates, which are obviously wrong. However, the inventory of Cromwell's estate, dated at Cambridge 28:10:61, i. e. 28 Dec. 1661, signed by John Parker, William Fletcher and Jacob Parker, all of Chelmsford, gives the approximate date of his death and mentions "a large list of Indian trading goods, household furniture, farming tools, a stock of cattle and horses twenty in number and twelve swine, the farm 'housing, broke up land, fencing' and other appurtenances." (Hill and Stearns), showing a "large farming establishment." Hill says: "Thus it appears that Cromwell had at the time of his death in 1661, a dwelling house, barn and outbuildings, and a large improved farm upon what is now the Bancroft farm in Tyngsborough."

Seaborne Cromwell, on 22 Jan. 1662-3, mortgaged the property to John Hull, goldsmith, of Boston, and in May 1663 married Robert Parris of Dunstable. They went to Groton to live and there she died before 1667, for in that year Parris married a second time. (See Stearns, pp. 19 and 57.)

This mortgage to Hull was probably foreclosed, for "Hull sold the premises 29 Jan. 1676-7 to Lt. Joseph Wheeler" (Stearns) of Concord, who sold it to Peter Bulkeley, Bulkley, or Buckley. In Tyngsborough Deeds, Book 1, p. 49, is this entry: "John Cromwell of Andover, cordwainer, Benjamin Cromwell of Woodbridge, Fast Jersey, late of Charlestown, mason, both sons of John Cromwell

(Continued on Page 6)

V. I. A. ANNUAL

Published each year by the

TYNGSBOROUGH VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOL. XXXXII

FEBRUARY, 1937

OFFICERS OF THE V. I. A.

Perley E. Knight, President
 Reuben B. Sherburne, First Vice-President
 Chester H. Queen, Second Vice-President
 Jennie R. K. Hodgman, Clerk and Corresponding Secretary
 Roscoe C. Turner, Treasurer
 Raymond W. Sherburne, Auditor

Executive Committee

Mr. Malcolm Parrish,	1937	Mrs. Malcolm Parrish	1937
Mr. Edward Wilkins	1938	Mrs. Edward Wilkins	1938
Mr. Arthur Wilbur	1939	Mrs. Arthur Wilbur	1939

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 13, 1936

The Annual Banquet was held in the Tyngsborough Town Hall on Friday, October 30, 1936, at 7.30 o'clock in the evening. Owing to the illness of the President, Mr. Harold Dunlap and the First Vice-President Mr. Reuben B. Sherburne the Second Vice-President Mr. Chester H. Queen served as presiding officer.

Mr. Queen called upon Rev. Dwayne H. Mengel, pastor of the Evangelical church, to ask a blessing before fifty-six members and friends of the V. I. A. sat down to a delicious roast turkey dinner.

Mrs. John Upton had charge of the dinner and was assisted by Mrs. C. E. Haley, Mrs. Alfred McCordick and Jack Derbabian.

The dining-room, in charge of Mrs. George Duff, was prettily decorated with crepe paper of Hallowe'en colors. Her assistants were Mrs. Lester Jordan, Mrs. Adelbert Bell, Mrs. Carl Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Jordan and Charles Derbabian.

After the dinner, the acting president, Mr. Queen, made a few remarks and then called for a selection from the Musical Trio, composed of Miss Frances Clarke, vocal soloist, Miss Eleanor Sherburne, pianist and Howard Sherburne, violinist.

Mr. Queen then explained why the banquet was held two weeks before the Annual Business Meeting, and called upon the clerk, Mrs. Herbert Hodgman, to read some of the By-laws of the Association. Mrs. Hodgman read the following articles:

Article XIII. "The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held in the Village of Tyngsborough on the second Friday of November at 7.30 o'clock in the evening. Notices of said meeting shall be posted on each of the churches, and at the Post-office at least seven days prior to the time of holding said meeting, and a written notice sent to all non-resident members, said notices to be signed by the corresponding secretary.

Other meetings of the Association shall be held in February and May. The President to set the dates. Other

meetings of the Association may be called by the executive committee on seven days' notice as above described."

Articles regarding membership were then read.

Article IX. "Every person over fourteen years of age who shall plant and protect a tree, under the direction of the executive committee or pay the sum of one dollar annually, shall be a member of this Association. And every child under fourteen years of age who shall pay the sum of twenty-five cents, or do an equivalent amount of work annually, under the direction of the executive committee, shall be a member of this Association."

Article X. "The payment of ten dollars annually for three years, or of twenty-five dollars in one sum shall constitute a person a member of this Association for life."

After another selection from the Trio, Mr. Queen introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Carl A. Richmond who took for his subject, "How Courts Decide Cases."

Mr. Richmond is a member of the Patent Department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company in New York City, but his home is in Tyngsborough and he is a member of this Association.

His talk was most interesting and instructive, and the V. I. A. members greatly appreciated Mr. Richmond's kindness in giving this address.

Mr. Queen then called upon Rev. Floyd J. Taylor, pastor of the Unitarian church, for a few remarks. Mr. Taylor responded in a most interesting manner, making several suggestions and telling a story to prove, he said, "That things are not always what they seem."

After a social hour the meeting adjourned to November 13, 1936, when the Annual Business Meeting will be held.

JENNIE R. K. HODGMAN.
Clerk.

The Annual Business Meeting was held in the lower town hall on November 13, 1936.

The acting president, Mr. Chester H. Queen called the meeting to order at 7.30 P. M. and appointed Mr. R. W. Sherburne to serve as auditor to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Wallace P. Butterfield. Mr. Queen then appointed the following nominating committee to report later in the evening: Mr. Harry L. Littlehale, Miss Grace Henderson and Mr. Raymond W. Sherburne.

A recess was called for a short time, as some of the members were obliged to attend a town meeting in the upper hall.

At 8.30 the meeting was reopened and the reports of the Clerk, Treasurer, Auditor and Executive Committee were read and accepted. Mr. Perley E. Knight, chairman of the Executive Committee reported that the spring and fall "Clean-up Days" had been observed as usual. The Annual Fair and Entertainment held March fifth and sixth was very successful. The V. I. A. Annual published as usual and twenty-five dollars was donated toward painting the interior of the Town Hall.

The acting president, Mr. Queen, spoke of the great loss to the V. I. A. and to the whole community in the deaths of the following members of the Association during the past year:

Mr. Fred A. Coburn, a member of the Executive Committee from November, 1909 to November, 1912, and

(Continued on Page 5)

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report of the Village Improvement Association for the year ending November 7, 1936.

RECEIPTS

Cash balance Nov. 8, 1935	\$378.96
Membership dues	28.00
Receipts from Supper—Annual Meeting	32.25
Sale of Table Paper80
Gift from Children's Table	5.00
Ads for 1936 V. I. A. Annual	91.00

Receipts from V. I. A. Fair, March 5-6, 1936:

Tickets	\$60.50
Children's Table	25.55
Supper	69.55
Fancy Table	31.70
Ice Cream Table	11.00
Candy Table	26.00
Flower Table	1.50

	\$225.80
Interest on deposits	6.17
	<u>\$767.98</u>

PAYMENTS

Expense of Annual Meeting, Nov. 1935:

Entertainment	\$ 4.00
Catering and Kitchen Expense	11.80
Supper Supplies	37.76
Advertising	1.70

\$ 55.26

Expense of Annual Fair, Mar. 5-6, 1936:

Orchestra	\$17.00
Decorations	5.68
Perham & Queen—Supper Supplies	19.00
Red Wing Diner—Supper Supplies	47.81
Napkins	1.00
Play	5.80
Washing Dishes (2 nights)	6.00
Ice Cream Table	8.45
Printing Tickets	5.25
Advertising	5.63

\$121.62

Balfe Service Co.—Printing V. I. A. Annual	100.00
Spring Clean-up Day	27.13
Fall Clean-up Day	16.00
Contribution of V. I. A. towards painting of Town Hall in 1935	25.00
Postage59

Total Payments \$345.60

Cash Balance Nov. 7, 1936 422.38

\$767.98

Total assets held as follows:

Union Old Lowell National Bank, checking account	\$146.39
Union Old Lowell National Bank, Savings account	120.58
Lowell Institution for Savings, Savings account	155.41

\$422.38

All known bills are paid. About \$30.00 is due the V. I. A. on 1936 V. I. A. Annual ads.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSCOE C. TURNER,
Treasurer.

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VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS 1936	
JAN.	
26 Doris May Roberts.....	Herman S. Roberts and Mary Stella Donuswich
Feb.	
19 Roland George Hodgdon.....	Iran L. Hodgdon and Iola Florence Holt
MAR.	
7 Marion Lorraine Berlind.....	Edgar Samuel Berlind and Mildred Marion Kenyon
20 Arlene Mary Delisle	Ralph Eugene Delisle and Irma Muzzey
27 ——— Jordan	Lester H. Jordan and Dorothy Jordan
29 ——— Fadden	Harold Fadden and Bella Dupras
APRIL	
1 ——— Boucher	Edward Boucher and Madeline Carter
5 Betsy Alfreda George	Alvin George and Freda Louise Lafferty
10 ——— Newman	Earle Newman and Dorothy Frye
19 ——— Murray	John Murray and Emma Perrault
MAY	
5 Audrey Alice Brassard	Henry Brassard and Madeline Boyce
9 ——— Burdick	Allen W. Burdick and Esther M. Landry
21 ——— Stillborn	
JUNE	
11 ——— Farrow	Wilbur C. Farrow and Helen M. Bell
13 Henry Adelard Cormier.....	Adelard Joseph Cormier and Aurore Florence Pelletier
28 Florence Marie Gervais.....	Arthur Joseph Gervais and Rose Alice Barlow
JULY	
8 ——— Wyman	Horace F. Wyman and Iona Farrow
28 ——— Wilkins	Harold B. Wilkins and Yvonne Lamarre
AUG.	
8 ——— Johnson	Walter Johnson and Ruth Andrews
9 Doris Myrtle Sherburne ...	Maxwell Gardner Sherburne and Bernice Upton Sherburne
15 Maureen O'Hare	Joseph O'Hare and Cecilia Pease
31 ——— Bentley	Harold T. Bentley and Sadie Proulx
SEPT.	
8 Angele Alice Marie Ledoux.....	Donat Ledoux and Anselma Wright
10 ——— Grohs	Edwin Grohs and Lorraine Montmarquet
28 Helen Evelyn Rich	Howard L. Rich and Lillian B. Lynch
OCT.	
16 Joseph Patrick Serizzi	Angelo Serizzi and Lena Lajenesse
31 Vernon Allen Lyon	Dana Walter Lyon and Madeline Blaine
NOV.	
10 Frederick Norman Quinn	James P. Quinn and Ida B. Kelley
DEC.	
16 Theresa Marie Gosselin	Alfred Oliver Gosselin and Evelyn Blanch Howe

MARRIAGES 1936

Jan. 4	Frank C. Gilbert and Florence N. Simpson
Jan. 5	Oscar La Francis and Marjorie Delano
Jan. 6	Adrien Mernner and Harriet Cecelia Castles
Jan. 16	Arthur Leonard Smith and May Harriman Stevens
Feb. 20	Victor Emil Elaison and Enonne Any Gagnon
Feb. 21	Peter Jrosz and Hilda May Nickles
Feb. 26	Adelard Bellrose, Jr. and Elizabeth McKenney
Mar. 27	Jabez B. Upton and Eva Lizotte
Mar. 28	Richard H. Lambert and Irene F. Gilbert
Mar. 28	George E. Dixon and Elizabeth B. M. Dick
Apr. 6	Wilbur Chester Farrow and Helen May Bell
Apr. 11	Walter J. Roper and Kathleen Sarmiento
Apr. 12	Fred L. Dupras and Yvonne A. Langlois
Apr. 17	Charles A. Gregoire and Mae H. Aigeltingie
Apr. 18	Harold Edward Cooke and Evelyn Martineau Boivin
Apr. 28	L. George Gaudette and Grace Archambault
May 2	Harold C. Roberts and Lillian M. Dupras
May 16	Walter Duprey and Leona M. Corriveau
May 18	Diamond Louis Nadeau and Jane A. Howe
May 23	Arthur Rowell and Rose Thibault
May 30	Alphonse Patenaude and Matilda Roberts
June 7	Medrick Racicot and Carrie McKenney
June 18	George Ricard and Emily Paradisi
June 20	Warren Evans Metcalf and Clara C. St. Pierre
June 26	Laurel G. Chute and Nita J. Tucker
July 2	Russell P. Wyman and Irene Annette Demers
July 9	Edward McGuigan and Isabel Mulroy
July 21	Raymond L. Cassidy and Elizabeth Kenfield
Aug. 17	Charles Andrew and Mabel Relation
Sept. 25	Thomas Chester Turner and Lena J. Ruonda
Oct. 2	Philip L. Robichaud and Mary R. Paradis
Oct. 4	Arthur J. Lennon, Jr. and Frances E. McPhee
Oct. 9	Ernest C. MacDougall and Sarah Hanson Norton
Oct. 12	Walter W. Love and Mary M. Martin
Oct. 25	Dallas Calley and Florence Daigneau
Nov. 7	Clarence P. Worcester and Eleanor Wilkins
Nov. 7	Henry B. Prescott and Ellen Weeks Brown
Dec. 4	Valmos V. Stone and Charlotte L. Peaslee
Dec. 12	Harry G. Hall and Adeline B. Stater Porter
Dec. 17	George Michiels and Constance Kellev
Dec. 21	William F. Griffin and Eva Bonet Elliott
Dec. 24	George Henry Joslin and Mabel Virginia Paquette
Dec. 31	Carlos P. Morse and Frances L. Brewer

DEATHS 1936

Jan. 9	Sarah Etta Sawyer
Jan. 13	Reginald W. Warley
Feb. 6	George Edward Ford
Mar. 9	Fred A. Coburn
Apr. 14	John E. French
Apr. 17	Rev. George DeJordy
May 1	Margaret Hargraves
May 10	Wallace P. Butterfield
May 19	Prosper J. Snay
May 21	Stillborn
June 10	H. Lorenia Spurr
June 13	J. Allan Mooney
June 21	Audrey Alice Brassard
July 2	Philista Flint
July 2	Clifford Lord
July 9	Florence A. Wadleigh
Aug. 3	Healon Edward Symonds
Sept. 30	Ethelena Richardson Curtis
Dec. 28	Frank Goodwin

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THE PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

In spite of adverse conditions, such as storm and flood, the work of the Parent-Teacher Association has been carried on by a rather small group who appreciate the inestimable value of frequent contacts of parents and teachers.

Mrs. Beattie, who is well known in Parent-Teacher circles, was present at a meeting last spring which had been postponed from the regular date in March, on account of weather and flood conditions. The regular meeting in May, which was held in connection with the school exhibition, was well attended. A style show, a dramatization written by pupils of the seventh grade, and music comprised the program. In September the local Grange and the Parent-Teacher Association joined in a pleasant get-together. Both the November and January meetings were rather informal on account of the small attendance. On the latter occasion a delightful social evening was spent playing cards. All who were present had a most enjoyable time, and the evening slipped away very rapidly.

The date for the next regular meeting is Thursday, March 11th. Although the program has not yet been announced, our president, Mrs. Arthur Wilbur, and those in charge will be glad to see a good attendance.

The opportunity provided by these meetings to discuss the problems of children who are having difficulties in adjusting themselves to the required standards of scholarship or behavior should not be overlooked. The cooperation of the home and the school can do much toward the understanding of the individual child. The sponsors of the Parent-Teacher Association organized with this purpose definitely in view. Let us not miss our opportunity.

GRACE H. HENDERSON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE V. I. A.

(Continued from Page 2)

President from November, 1912 to November, 1913, passed away on March 9, 1936.

Mr. Wallace P. Butterfield, Auditor from 1914 to the time of his death on May 10, 1936.

Mr. Healon E. Symonds, Vice-President from 1917 to 1926 and was then elected President and served until November, 1927. He passed away August 3rd, 1936.

It was voted that separate pages in the record book of the V. I. A. be dedicated to the memory of these officers.

The Nominating Committee brought in the following names of people who were unanimously elected as officers for the ensuing year: President, Mr. Perley E. Knight; First Vice-President, Mr. Reuben B. Sherburne; Second Vice-President, Mr. Chester H. Queen; Clerk and Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Jennie R. K. Hodgman; Treasurer, Mr. Roscoe C. Turner; Auditor, Mr. Raymond W. Sherburne; two members of the Executive Committee for three years, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wilbur. The other members of the Executive Committee are: Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Parrish and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wilkins.

After the business meeting Mrs. Hodgman read an article from the V. I. A. Annual of February, 1896, on the beginning of village improvement in Tyngsborough, also one written by the clerk of the V. I. A. in April, 1907, Miss Harriett B. Whitaker, now Mrs. Clifton Kimball, on this same subject. This was written for a conference of the Massachusetts Civic League, held in Boston, April 26, 1907.

"The first society for the promotion of village improvements in this state was formed in Tyngsborough, April, 1844. A paper was drawn up by Dr. Augustus Peirce, Senior, which read as follows:

"We, the subscribers, agree to form ourselves into a Tree Society and to pay one dollar annually towards improving the village by the setting out of trees."

The paper was signed by: Robert Brinley, D. S. Richardson, Calvin Thomas, Augustus Peirce, Charles Butterfield, ——— R., Joseph Upton, Nathaniel Brinley,

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C. A. Green, J. C. Proctor, H. Wood and Robert Brinley, Jr. Work was begun immediately, according to a letter written to a local paper in 1878, by Hon. W. A. Richardson, Chief Justice of the Court of Claims in Washington and a former Secretary of the Treasury in one of President Grant's administrations.

He said, that while studying law with his brother Daniel S. Richardson, of Lowell, and living with his mother in the family homestead in Tyngsborough, he assisted Mr. Robert Brinley and Mr. James Danforth in setting out nearly, if not quite all of the trees now standing upon the common.

More than thirty years later a league was formed with about fifty members, the object being "to beautify the town and erect public watering fountains."

Meetings were held every fortnight.

During the first of its existence this league appropriated eighty dollars towards grading and beautifying the common and the money was expended in the following spring.

Watering fountains were erected and other good work accomplished. Entertainments were also furnished at rates within the reach of all.

The Village Improvement Association was organized in 1890. Some of the citizens who felt that immediate improvements were needed, decided to "hold a meeting." James Danforth, Channing Whitaker, A. A. Flint, A. P. Hadley, Asa M. Swain, George O. Perham, Sumner Woodward and Louville Curtis met at the residence of Mr. Danforth and as a result the Village Improvement Association was organized. The objects, as defined by the constitution at that time were, "To improve, ornament and light the streets and public grounds of Tyngsborough, by planting and cultivating trees, cleaning and repairing sidewalks and gutters, erecting, caring for and lighting street lamps, and doing such other acts as shall tend to beautify, improve and light said streets and grounds."

The first meeting was held December 22, 1890. A detailed account of these organizations can be found in the Littlefield Library, in the V. I. A. Annual of February, 1896.

The meeting was adjourned after which a social hour was enjoyed.

JENNIE R. K. HODGMAN.

Clerk.

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Tyngsboro, Mass.

THE TIMOTHY BANCROFT HOMESTEAD

(Continued from Page 1)

late at the trading house on Merrimack river, merchant, deceased, and Robert Crumbey, Boston, cooper, and Rebecca his wife, daughter of the said John Cromwell, deceased, in consideration of £13 paid by John Buckley of Boston, mariner, son of Peter Buckley of Concord, deceased, quitclaim all right and title in the 300 acres in Dunstable alias Naacook which was his mansion place and whereof our father died seized." This was dated 24 Dec. 1702.

In 1674 the first proprietors meeting in Dunstable was held at the house of Lt. Wheeler. Col. Ebenezer Bancroft, born in 1738, told his grandson, John B. Hill that Lt. Wheeler's house was here. (Hill.) Stearns also says the proprietors met here.

The title of the land "passed from John Buckley to Henry Farwell by deed Jan. 11, 1710" (Hill) and Farwell deeded (1737?) a part of this land and containing the Cromwell house site, to his son-in-law Timothy Bancroft, whose descendants still retain it.

During the years between 1662-3 and 1676-7, while the mortgage of the place was still held by Hull, I find little mention of the dwellers in this neighborhood. Indian troubles made life in these outlying districts uncertain and only the boldest remained upon their lands. In 1675 "not a family remained in the settlement, with one exception. Jonathan Tyng determined to fortify his house." (Churchill. "History of the first church in Dunstable-Nashua.") There is mention of the meeting in 1674 of the proprietors as told above. Later it seems the proprietors, many of whom were non-residents, held their meetings in Woburn, and there in 1677 they arranged for the settlement of a minister. By 1678 some of the families had returned and the unfinished meeting house was completed that year and Thomas Weld was engaged as preacher. He continued to preach for seven years, unordained. This meeting house stood not far north of the State line, according to the stone marking the site, and faced the road leading from the river highway to Dunstable and Groton passing the Danforth place, now Lambert's. A new meeting house, standing at the cemetery in South Nashua was built in 1684, and on 16 Dec. 1685 the church was organized and Parson Weld was ordained the first settled minister. There were seven male members, among them Jonathan Tyng. From all this it seems that the cultivated acres of Cromwell and the fertile valley lands along the Merrimack attracted settlers at this time, and the main portion of the settlement was along this section, but when the New Hampshire-Massachusetts boundary line was run in 1741, cutting through the Bancroft farm, changes were inevitable and the new conditions necessitated a change of the center to the present site of Tyngsborough, and there in 1755 the First Parish church was established.

Timothy Bancroft was the son of Ebenezer Bancroft of Lynnfield and grandson of Thomas of Reading, who came to this country in 1632, a boy of 9 or 10 years of age.

Timothy, born in 1709, came to Dunstable somewhere about 1730, and about 1732 married Elizabeth, the daughter of Henry Farwell, and settled on this site. He was a Lieutenant in the Colonial army under Eleazer Tyng, and his commission was signed by the Royal governor William Shirley. It is told in the family that Timothy tore down a house that stood here, supposedly the Cromwell house and built another on the same site. An old picture of this shows a house similar in style to the Willow Tree Home-

stead, and like that, facing the south, while the barn was on the opposite side of the road. I remember playing, as a child, in the remnants of the old barn, which was finally torn down about 1888.

Elizabeth Farwell was born in 1715, and she and Timothy had nine children. She died in 1754, about a month after the death, at 21, of her eldest son. Timothy married, second, Widow Mary (Newhall) Mansfield. Mary Hawkes, a descendant of Timothy and Mary, told J. F. Bancroft the following: "She had eight children and he had eight children, and they had two more. So there were eighteen children living at one time in the family and were called 'the illustrious eighteen'."

The ten children of Timothy grew up and married, but only two of the sons remained in Tyngsborough, Ebenezer and Jonathan. Timothy died in 1772 and the farm was divided between these two sons, Ebenezer having the southern third and Jonathan the northern two-thirds and the buildings. Jonathan's land extended from the river to the long meadow under the hill to the west and from the wall south of the house to the north side of the home orchard. The story of Col. Ebenezer and his homestead is told in the V. I. A. Annual, v. 3, 1898.

Jonathan, born 1750, died 1815, married Martha Green of Groton in 1773 and had a family of ten children, only one of whom died young. He was a farmer and tanner and active in the affairs of the town, was a Deacon in the church and was known as Dea. Jonathan. He was a Sergeant in the Revolutionary War in Leonard Butterfield's Co. in 1775 and held a commission signed by John Hancock in 1781 as a Lieutenant in the company of Capt. Nathaniel Holden in the Mass. Militia. In 1773 he began to buy land in the neighborhood, purchasing from Jos. Eayers the tan yard at what is now the Willow spring. This he sold to Joseph Farwell. In 1779 he received from his brother Col. Ebenezer, a deed of his home place and in which he is designated "Tanner," and from Oliver Colburn 9 acres. In 1782 he and John Farwell bought 26 acres from Thomas Blanchard, and later John deeded his share to Jonathan. In this deed Jonathan is styled "Gentleman." He bought

(Continued on Page 7)

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TYNGSBOROUGH

MASSACHUSETTS

TIMOTHY BANCROFT HOMESTEAD

(Continued from Page 6)

more than 130 acres adjoining his land in 1783, 1785, 1787 and 1792 from Joseph, Theodore and Benjamin French. Not all of this land has been retained and in the family although the greater part still remains as part of the present farm.

Of Jonathan's children nine married and all but two left Tyngsborough to make homes in other places. His oldest child Jonathan received the home place, and Mary married Ebenezer Swan and lived on the old Swan place, afterwards the Knight place, where the house was recently burned. In 1813, two years before his death, Dea. Jonathan deeded his homestead to his son Jonathan.

Jonathan, Jr., known as Maj. Jonathan, born in 1774, married in 1798 Sarah Taylor of Dracut. They had ten children, but only two sons. Maj. Jonathan, of whose title I cannot recall having heard the origin, lived on the homestead and at least part of the time in the French house standing where the "Friendly Cottage" now is, and which was bought by his father of Theodore French in 1787. In this house in 1811 his eldest son and seventh child, was born.

Maj. Jonathan, in his own right, bought in 1799 two and a half acres of land and in 1804 twelve acres of woodland, both adjoining the home farm, and in the deeds is styled "Yeoman." In 1813 he received from his father the deed of the homestead. Here he farmed as his fathers before him, taught school and was interested in town and church affairs and was the librarian of the School or Social library of this district. The old cupboard which housed this collection is still in existence.

Jonathan's son Jonathan 3rd, came into possession of his father's land at his death in 1838. He tore down the old dwelling house of Timothy and rebuilt on the same site the present building, finishing it sufficiently by Dec. 1838 to move into it when he married at that time Eliza Jane Kendall, daughter of Jeremiah Kendall of Tyngsborough. Eliza Jane's father, prominent in the town and a carpenter and builder, built the house. His son Charles, also a carpenter, later built the barn on the present site, and gradually the old barn was abandoned. A cider mill, also, stood near the house, bought and moved to its place by Jonathan 3rd, it is said, and which was in use until after 1910. Jonathan sold the French place after 1838, leaving the farm in the Bancroft name practically as it stands today. Here he was occupied with his farming, held the office of tax collector for a time in the town and was active in the church. He had five children, but only one son.

Jonathan Franklin, son of Jonathan 3rd, better known as J. Frank Bancroft, was born in 1847 and died in 1925. He continued the business of a farmer. He held minor offices in the town, but was more especially concerned in its social life. His greatest interest was in the history and genealogy of the town and he collected from the older inhabitants many interesting bits of local affairs of which he kept notes. He was a keen botanist and no one in the town knew its flora as he did. He married in 1872 Helen Arianna Kidder, daughter of Zimri Kidder and grand-daughter of Mary (Bancroft) Swan, and they had five children, three sons and two daughters.

His two living sons now own the land. The eldest, Horace Timothy, has a part of the ancestral acres but does not dwell thereon. The youngest son, Chester Frank Kidder Bancroft, retains the larger portion and lives on the farm. He married in 1908 Lottie Mae Upton, daughter of Henry Upton of Tyngsboro and has four children living. After the death of his wife, he married again in 1934 Mrs. Ida F. (Brooks) Boutwell of Andover, daughter of Edwin H. Brooks, formerly a resident of Tyngsboro.

He continues in the same family tradition and may these acres descend through his posterity to prosperous years ahead.

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TYNGSBORO GRANGE No. 222

For those people who do not know the aims and purpose of the Grange I will try to set forth a few objects towards which this fraternal order strives.

First it tries to encourage education among all people, regardless of creed, color, or age, by increasing the use of our libraries and by aiding every endeavor to give our young people a broader and a more complete education. It tries to emphasize each and everyone's civic duty to be good citizens and to encourage good government. Besides these moral and civic aims the Grange develops in those who take its work seriously the ability to stand and express himself or herself in a comprehensive and creditable manner. It also brings those, who follow its social aspects, into a closer and more friendly relationship with their neighbors and brother and sister members of other Granges.

Tyngsboro Grange has tried in years passed to follow the edicts and laws, moral, civic, and social, of the order as set forth by the founders of our order some seventy years ago. Today we try to do our part by giving aid to sufferers as we did when the call came from the Red Cross in behalf of New England flood sufferers; by helping the improvement of health conditions; by supporting the dental clinic; by trying to make better citizens of our young people by the sponsorship of the Boy Scouts and cooperation with the Parent-Teachers Association. We also try to help preserve nature by encouraging bird work among the school children and also among the adults of this town, and by beautifying the surroundings as we tried to do at Christmastide by wiring and lighting the spruce tree at the town hall. To encourage agriculture this organization held a fair where exhibits of agriculture, crafts, and culinary arts were displayed. Such activities should go far to make the Grange an indispensable factor in a community and we sincerely hope that anyone interested in our work will join our ranks and help make our community a better place in which to live.

FLOYD BANCROFT.

THE TYNGSBORO SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

For some time the hunters and fishermen of Tyngsboro have felt that only by organization could the best interests of all the sportsmen be served. A group of 20 met at the home of A. H. Wilbur, Middlesex Road, last September and after some discussion organized a club with the following preamble:

"The purpose of this organization is to bring local sportsmen together to promote good sportsmanship and to protect sportsmen's rights and privileges. To this end we do hereby form ourselves together in an organization to be known as The Tyngsboro Sportsmen's Club, and we hereby agree to show proper respect for the rights of property owners, the game laws and rights of our brother sportsmen. We further agree that we shall in no way become affiliated with any political organization."

The officers elected to serve until the first Wednesday in October, 1937 are: A. H. Wilbur, President; John Murray, Vice-President; Thomas Goodchild, Secretary-Treasurer.

There are a great many angles to an organization of this kind, for a hunter is not always a sportsman and a sportsman is not necessarily a hunter.

We, as a club, would like to have all the hunters become sportsmen and would like to have all the sportsmen join our club and assist us in maintaining friendly relations with the land owner and farmer as they occupy a very important position in all efforts to replenish the supply of game birds and animals.

As some hunters do not realize this and as a consequence we have complaints of wire fences cut, stonewalls pulled down and excavations that look as if some one was looking for a lost city or sinking a mining shaft where some luckless animal has thought himself safe at home.

As a number of the members own valuable hunting dogs we are all greatly interested in Rabies Control and believing that the Bureau of Animal Industry in the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C., where experiments are being conducted all the time, to be the best source of information, we wrote to them for all available information in regard to vaccination, restraining dogs, etc. We quote from this undoubtedly reliable source:

"Cases of paralysis have been noted in experimental work, also following the field use of vaccine."

"There is a possibility that vaccination may produce for a short period a temporary negative phase during which a dog may be more susceptible to infection than one not vaccinated."

"Data in respect to phenol killed vaccine is quite meagre."

"No data on chloroform-treated vaccine are available beyond four months."

"The possibilities of post-vaccinal paralysis from this type of vaccine should be recognized and no absolute assurance should be given that no harm to the dog will result."

"Where rabies vaccines are used it is important that no false sense of security should prevail because of vaccination."

"There are certain recognized methods of controlling the disease, foremost among which are licensing all dogs, destruction of stray dogs, quarantine measures vigorously enforced. These measures properly carried out have controlled the disease and in some countries, notably England, have resulted in a complete eradication of rabies."

The International Rabies Conference concludes with this statement: "In the opinion of the Conference the only measures that will completely eradicate rabies are the restriction of the dog, unless muzzled, to the premises of the owner and the destruction of the ownerless dog. The Conference recommends that these measures be embodied in the legislation of the various countries."

All members are expected to co-operate in a program of this kind.

The meetings have been held in Mr. Goodchild's store on the first Wednesday of the month, but have been discontinued during the cold weather. However, we will resume them as soon as warm weather returns.

We have 33 members at present and hope to have a great many more as there are many sportsmen from nearby towns who will be glad to join and participate in our Field Trials which we intend to run some time in the spring. We would be glad to have any and all farmers and land owners come to our meetings at any time and talk over ways and means that may be of help to each other.

A. H. WILBUR.

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Warren Allgrove
Hubert, his personal valet Howard Brow
Samuel Perry, his friend and distant cousin,
Charles Currier
Temple Carter, his uncle Jardine Davis
Goldie Jenkins, no better than she need be,
Helen Woodward
Wilma Maitland, an obliging young lady,
Eleanor Sherburne
Mrs. Jenkins, Goldie's mother Eva Jordan
Miss Lemira Perry, Sam's aunt Margaret Brow

Scene. The living-room of Archie's two-room apartment.

Time. The present.

Act I. Scene 1. A summer morning about nine.

Scene 2. Twenty minutes later.

Act II. 6.30 the same afternoon.

Act III. Breakfast time the next morning.

Directed by Mrs. Edith R. Wilkins

Stage Settings—Miss Phyllis Currier and
Mrs. Nellie Marriott.

WINSLOW SCHOOL PRIZE ESSAY, JUNE, 1936

ATTRACTING THE BIRDS

Here we are in the most beautiful season of the year, when flowers are blooming and birds are singing merrily while going about building their new homes. Birds are one of nature's most beautiful gifts to man, although everyone may not realize it. Many clubs and organizations have been, and are being formed throughout New England which shows that much interest is rapidly growing in the bird life. There are many things which people can do to make life easier for the birds, such as the making of bird houses, putting out food and feeding stations, protecting nests from cats or squirrels, planting trees and shrubs, and by placing respectable looking brush piles here and there for the birds that build their nests in such places.

Although there are many birds that make their homes in houses, there are more that build in trees, shrubbery and brush piles. Therefore, attractive little brush piles, placed about one's property, are of great value to the birds. Birds such as bluebirds, martins, and tree swallows, build in bird houses, which are being put up more and more each spring. When one builds a bird house, the hole should be placed up high, near the roof, so that pests, such as cats and squirrels, cannot put their claws in and disturb the fledglings and upset their comfortable homes. Birds are more apt to occupy bird houses if they are made of old wood and are not painted with fancy colors. When people are placing bird houses, they should take particular notice as to how near one house is to another, because if one family should see another close by, they do not usually make a home there. A bird house is not of much use if a piece of tin is used for the roof, because when the sun shines on it, the inside becomes very hot and often times the heat smothers the young. Bird houses should be cleaned out every spring so that they will be ready for the next family. It makes it much easier if the roof is merely put on by hinges. Birds such as the kingbird, robin, ovenbird, the oriole, and many others, sometimes find it rather difficult to find materials for making their nests, therefore people who take any interest in them at all should put out pieces of twine, rope that is easy to untangle the fibres from, or anything in that line. There was once a woman, a great lover of birds, instead of burning it would put her hair combings on the branches of a bush just outside her window. It was not long after that when a family of thrushes discovered it, and built a nest in that very bush. So you see, any little thing can be of great help to the birds, in the line of making nests.

The setting up of a bird bath, is one of the greatest humane services which we can do for birds. A very inexpensive bird bath can be made by taking ordinary field stone and cement, which would cost probably not more than thirty-five cents. The bowl may be made of flat stone and becomes waterproof by using sulphate of zinc. The bath itself is about two and one-half feet in diameter and from two to two and one-half inches deep. The water in a bath should be changed every day and never be so deep that a bird could be drowned in it. The fresh water gives the birds great comfort, protects their bodies from vermin, and also supplies them with drinking water. When you put up a bird bath, birds are more apt to make use of it

if it has not a shiny finish and when it is sheltered or surrounded by trees or shrubs.

Many people have put out feeding stations during the winter for the benefit of the birds and there would probably be more put out if people only knew how many birds starve during the winter, because there is no way to get at the ground for grit. Feeding stations can be easily made and without much cost. It would be advisable to put these stations on the south side of the house, where it would not be too cold for the birds.

If suet is put out, it is better to place it under a shelter and where birds can see it without much difficulty. A little box may be nailed to a tree, with wire put across the front so as to protect it from snow. Food may be hung on a limb in a crocheted bag, so that birds may cling to it.

An interesting fact is told by Esther Reeks about birds eating salt. It has been said that some birds like salt nearly as well as cattle, horses, and other animals, and if they had the opportunity to have it at all times, a general liking for it would soon be developed.

We sometimes find that our feathered friends come back to make their homes in the same nests or houses that they occupied the year before. The reason for this sometimes is because they had a good home there and because there were the helpful things needed, such as a bird bath, feeding stations, and good protection. Many people find their only enjoyment in bird life and there are many things we can do for them, in our spare moments.

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TYNGSBOROUGH GIRL SCOUTS

Golden Eaglets—Eleanor Sherburne, Helen Woodward.

First Class—Older girls who are affiliated with the Scouts yet unable to attend the meetings. Frances Clarke, Elizabeth Keyes, Mary Hayes, Esther Wilkins, Ruth Wilkins.

Second Class—Avis Bell, Dorothy Cobleigh, Gladys Cobleigh, Margaret Coburn, Natalie Farrow, Blanche Hunter, Ruth Russon, Esther Sherburne.

Tenderfoot—Mary Boucher, Edith Brake, Louise Clarke, Helen Clay, Jacqueline Farrow, Rita LeBlanc, Ruby Marinel, Eleanor Parrish, Juanita Sargent, Catherine Scimemi, Marian Sherburne, Bertha Willette.

New Scout—Miriam Wilkins.

We are halfway through our 13th year as a Scout Troop, with 28 Scouts.

We are very proud of our two Golden Eaglet Scouts in the troop. Helen Woodward was presented with her pin at the Scouts Own Service last spring, and Eleanor Sherburne received her pin this fall at the rally. This is the highest award in Scouting and only a small percentage of Scouts ever attain it. The Eaglet is presented for distinction in leadership, character and scholarship.

The girls are very fortunate and happy in having classes in both the "Housekeeper" and "Hostess" proficiency badges. While these classes are primarily to teach the girls the duties of a hostess or housekeeper, they are so well taught by Mrs. Harry Littlehale, Mr. Chester Queen, and Mrs. Raymond Sherburne that they are very popular with all our Scouts.

We have had more hikes and cookouts this year than ever before, the older girls doing all the planning and cooking, while the younger girls set the tables and play nature games under their direction.

We have sent presents and Holiday cards to some of our girls who have been unable to attend our meetings, made Valentines and Valentine scrapbooks, decorated the soldiers' graves and the town hall on Memorial Day, and tried in every way to be of service to our community.

We wish to thank our Troop Committee for the advice and assistance they have given throughout the year, and all our townspeople for their good-will and encouragement.

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LIEUTENANT DORIS L. RIGBY.

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NATURE WORK IN THE WINSLOW SCHOOL

This project sponsored by the local Grange, was carried out with the usual success during the past year. Nearly every pupil in grades four and five presented the required lists of birds seen and identified for which each received a small prize. Field walks taken with the sixth, seventh and eighth grades under the leadership of competent adults were much enjoyed by the children. In the walk with the eighth grade, the children were fortunate in having as a leader E. R. Davis, of Leominster, a well-known naturalist. For the eighth grade essay work the first prize was won by Marie Burnham, her essay being read at the graduation exercises. William Carter received second prize and Marian Lowe the third.

Rewards were given for seventy-one bird houses erected by the children, reported as occupied by nesting birds and certified by the parents. This is considered the most valuable constructive work of the entire project as it brings such practical results.

The money for the essay prizes and also for the small prizes for the bird lists is given by the Grange.

Part of the money for the bird house rewards was raised by an entertainment given in the First Parish church in co-operation with the Ladies' Alliance. The remainder was contributed by friends who believe it to be of real value to the children of the town. The hearty co-operation of parents, teachers, and school board makes possible the continued success of the plan.

F. L. S.

1936 4-H ACTIVITIES

In 1936 there were two active clubs in Tyngsboro—both of them garden clubs. One was in Sherburneville under the guidance of Mr. Leo Flanagan. This club consisted of eleven boys who did very good work, several of them receiving prizes from the Middlesex North Agricultural Society for excellent gardens.

The other club, under the leadership of Mr. Floyd Bancroft, consisted of seven boys who held their meetings at the Center. Due to outside influences such as sickness, etc., only three of these boys completed the required work. Frank Cobleigh, Jr., went to Amherst, Mass., for the annual two-day trip awarded one boy or girl who has done outstanding work during the previous year. Next year's trip has been awarded to Nelson McLoon, Jr., for excellent work this year. Members of both clubs exhibited at the Grange Fair and made a fairly good showing.

Several members attended the Field Day at the Varney Playgrounds in North Chelmsford under the auspices of the Greater Lowell 4-H Service Club which consists of members over fourteen years of age or of junior leaders.

There are also two other 4-H clubs in the Center, a cooking club with Mrs. Daisy Hartford as leader, and a homecraft club under Miss Helen Woodward's leadership. Both of these clubs have not finished their requirements at this time since they are both "winter" clubs.

The 4-H work has increased a bit this year and the outlook is a bit more encouraging. The leaders are looking forward to another successful year.

F. U. B.



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THE LUCKY CLOVER CLUB

"The Lucky Clover Club," under the leadership of Helen Woodward and Eleanor Sherburne, meets every other Saturday at 10.30 A. M.

The officers of the club are: President, Rita LeBlanc; Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Boucher; Record Clerk, Marion Sherburne; and Health Leader, Miriam Wilkins.

Home Furnishing is the subject which this 4-H group is interested in. Color schemes and arrangements are discussed and improvement of the girls' rooms is the chief objective.

A number of inexpensive and colorful things were shown to the group by Miss Elizabeth Hopkins, the Extension Service Leader, on one of her visits to the club.

An example of the type of work being done is the present project, a small, attractive dressing table. The dressing table is made with two orange crates, a board 36 in. by 15 in. and 2½ yards of inexpensive cloth which carries out the color scheme of the room. The board is nailed securely to the orange crates, and the cloth is attached in pleats or gathers by the use of matching thumb tacks. The result is a very attractive dressing table with handy shelves for the very small sum of fifty or seventy-five cents. A matching stool may be made in like manner out of a large peach basket or butter tub.

During recreation periods, games and club songs are enjoyed by the girls.

H. P. W.

THE INDUSTRIOUS CLUB

The organization is as follows: President, Mrs. Charles E. Haley; Vice-President, Mrs. James H. Woodward; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Enlo A. Perham.

All day meetings are held at the homes of the members the second Tuesday of the month.

We had our annual trip to the "Extension Service picnic" at Lexington, where we met units from other towns in the county. We also had an outing at the home of Mrs. Koon, in Weston, Mass., who was our former "Extension Leader." We also had a trip to Salem Willows and enjoyed a fish dinner.

We donated some money for the Community Chest, also sent a Christmas basket. The club welcomes visitors or new members at any time.

L. A. H.

TROOP 1 TYNGSBORO BOY SCOUTS

The Troop meets every Monday evening at the Town Hall. The Troop is alive and progressing as usual. We wish to thank the voters of the town for the use of the hall.

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Scoutmaster.

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To all who contributed in any way may we say THANKS!

The Committee.

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TYNGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY CLUB

Under the leadership of the Middlesex County Extension Service a community committee representing the leading organizations of the town was formed to inquire into the needs of the community. The committee decided that a social organization for all young people of fifteen and over would fill a want not then answered by the societies existing.

As a result of the efforts of this committee the Tyngsborough Community Club was formed in March, 1935, with the object of promoting and aiding recreational activities in the town. The club was favorably received. It was instrumental in obtaining the completion of the tennis court on the school grounds and the ball field at Wickasce Park.

During the past several months the club has been less active due to various changes and new interests of the membership. At present there seems to be considerable sentiment in favor of dividing the club into two separate organizations devoted respectively to baseball and tennis, the two major interests of the present organization.

H. J. D.

HARRY L. LITTLEHALE

NOTARY PUBLIC

THE FRANCO-AMERICAN NATURALIZATION CLUB

The Franco-American Naturalization Club is a club to do for others, with its main object to help non-citizens to be naturalized. The club now has a membership of 125 members with the following officers: Ruth Boucher, President; Paul Peters, Vice-President; Marion Dingles, Secretary; Arthur W. Cabana, Treasurer. The club holds its meetings the first Monday of the month in the lower Town Hall.

During the past year the club has run three Beano parties, two Bean Suppers, a Roast Beef Supper and two Whist parties. With the proceeds of these parties the club has done splendid work:

\$5.00 to the Red Cross.

\$10.00 to Flood victims.

\$12.00 for two tonsil operations.

\$5.00 to Community Chest.

\$10.00 for transporting children and parents of the Town at a day's outing at Silver Lake.

Christmas-1935, 150 worthy of the town were invited guests of the club at a Christmas dinner.

In 1936 there were 87 guests. The remainder of the day was devoted to a Christmas tree and entertainment with all receiving gifts.

The President's Ball was sponsored by the club and \$14.00 was sent to the National Committee for Infantile Paralysis work.

The club wishes to thank all the members who worked so hard during the last year and the townspeople who co-operated with them to make the club such a success.

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